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## B2FIND

### About

End-user documentation for B2FIND, the EUDAT metadata service.

**Modified:** 26 February 2018

### Synopsis

Metadata are important whenever research data are intended for serious use. In addition to being essential for understanding an individual dataset, systematically structured metadata are also a key element of data infrastructures, such as searchable catalogs of data, or automated systems for mapping and analysis.

The EUDAT metadata service B2FIND addresses these requirements by providing a comprehensive joint metadata catalogue and a powerful discovery portal. Metadata stored through EUDAT services such as B2SHARE are harvested from various research communities overarching a wide scope of research disciplines.

The B2FIND portal and API provide the user with advanced search functionalities and allow access to the data resources behind the metadata found in the catalogue.

Please watch our brief B2FIND video, which explains the capabilities of the service.

[Embedded video for EUDAT B2FIND Service - Your interdisciplinary and cross-community discovery tool](#)

### Who benefits from the B2FIND service

The following two target groups are addressed by, and can benefit from the B2FIND service:

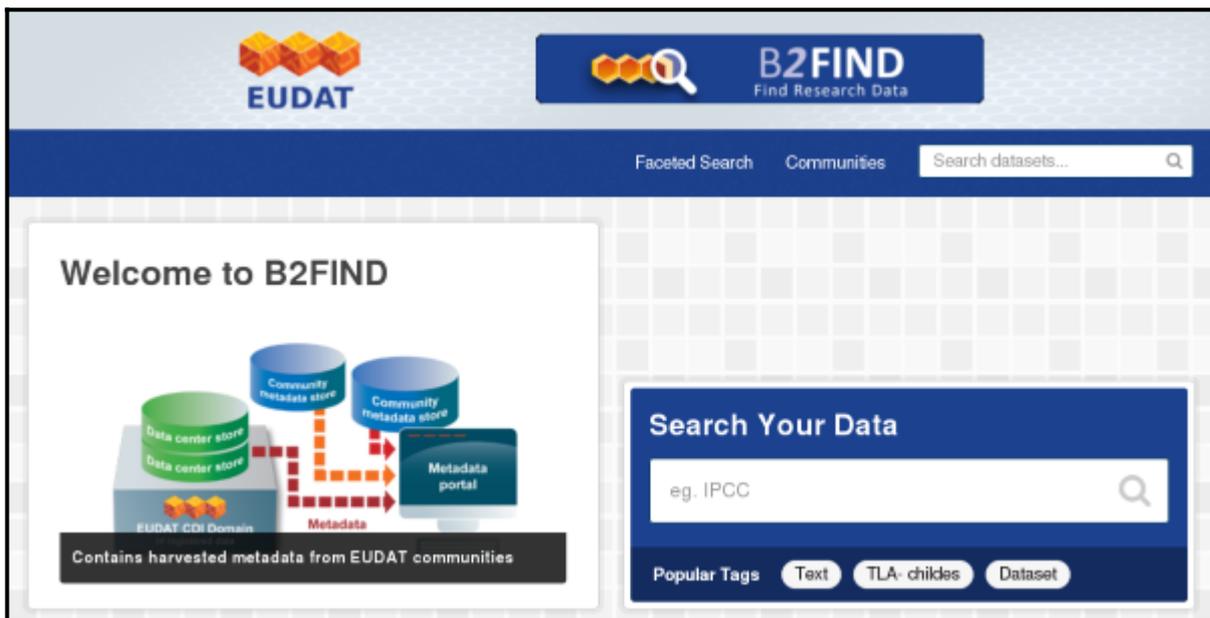
1. Researchers or end users who want to search and access research data: Please read the section "[How to find and access data using B2FIND](#)" and/or the online [Search Guide](#). You can use the B2FIND discovery portal available from <http://b2find.eudat.eu>.
2. Communities and other providers of research data who are interested in publishing their metadata in EUDAT: Please read the section "[How to publish metadata in B2FIND](#)" and contact us via the [webform](#).

### How to find and access data using B2FIND

The B2FIND service can be utilised in two ways:

- Via a graphical, web-based tool, available at <http://b2find.eudat.eu>, which is designed to be self-explanatory.
- Using a command line tool based on the API interface to the portal.

These modes of use are described in detail in our [B2FIND Usage](#) page.



**Figure 1. The EUDAT B2FIND service main screen. By entering text in the provided free text field "Search your data" you can perform a full text search over the whole catalogue directly from the home page.**

## How to publish metadata in B2FIND

The following two prerequisites must be fulfilled in order to publish and make your metadata visible in B2FIND:

- A service for providing and transferring the metadata.
- The definition of a community specific mapping.

The [B2FIND entry page](#) lists all communities that provide metadata under 'Communities'. In order to publish metadata, please follow the details under the [B2FIND Integration](#) page. The page lists the metadata formats supported by B2FIND and the metadata definition of the B2FIND schema.



**Figure 2. The communities integrated with B2FIND.**

## How B2FIND works

Metadata that are made searchable in B2FIND are harvested from metadata providers using the standard [OAI-PMH](#) interface. The community itself decides which metadata are made available to EUDAT and how their metadata elements are mapped to EUDAT-specific facets. A sophisticated framework ensures that metadata from various providers are harvested regularly to display complete and up-to-date information. This framework also provides the translation from the community metadata schema to standard facets in the B2FIND metadata catalogue.



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## Support

You can find B2FIND *training presentations* on the [EUDAT website](#).

You can also find *hands-on training material* on B2FIND on our [github repository](#).

*Support* for B2FIND is available via the EUDAT ticketing system through the [webform](#).

If you have *comments* on this page, please submit them through the [EUDAT ticketing system](#).

## Document Data

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